

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-34, 38-40, 42-45 have been examined.

Claims 3, 7-8, 12, 17-19, 28-31, 38, 44 and 45 were previously withdrawn from consideration.

By this amendment, claims 35-37, 41 and 46-60 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Independent claims 1, 9, 25 and 32 have been amended for further clarity.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-11, 13-16, 20-27, 32-34 and 39, 40, 42-43 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Seino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,361,138; hereinafter “Seino”). Applicant submits the following in traversal of the claim rejections.

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable because Seino fails to disclose or suggest, inter alia, the claimed front retaining lever, the back retaining member and the slit.

In the rejection of now-canceled claim 36, the Examiner argued that the portions of FIG. 4B annotated by the Examiner as “projections” in the annotated copy of FIG. 4B in the Office Action correspond to the front retaining member. The “projections,” however, are not parts of the ink cartridge, but are parts of the cartridge holder. Therefore, the “projections” do not correspond to the claimed front retaining lever of claim 1.

Similarly, the portion annotated as the “hook portion” by the Examiner cannot correspond to the claimed back retaining member of claim 1 because the “hook portion” is not a part of the ink cartridge.

Seino does not disclose or suggest the slit as recited in claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable.

Independent claims 9, 25 and 32 are patentable for reasons similar to those submitted for claim 1.

The remaining dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons submitted for their respective base claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

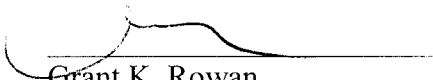
Respectfully submitted,

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**23373**

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